

## More Study Needed On Beach Restoration Project

Allen Weisenfluh, president of the Sandy Beach Association, stated Tuesday morning that the trustees of the beach "will have to do more homework" concerning a sand restoration project slated for Sandy Beach.

The private association's annual meeting was held Monday night to discuss the matter. Selectman Arthur Clark was invited to the meeting to discuss the fate of the \$55,000 disaster assistance money slated for new sand at the beach.

As a result, Weisenfluh said the association will request that Clark officially ask for a time waiver for the grant until the fall. The money would otherwise have to be returned if unused by August. This

time delay would enable the association to file a notice of intent with the Conservation Commission, to advertise for construction and to receive whatever legal counsel is needed.

"The funds can only be used for sand," Weisenfluh said. "It's difficult to get homogeneous sand. We have to do more research with environmental experts."

He would like a legal opinion from town counsel, he said, and written permission from the federal agency dispensing the funds for the job to verify the association's right to use the money for the privately-run Cohasset beach.

"The town is growing, although modestly," Weisenfluh said. "On the best of days

the beach is crowded." He emphasized that it was "of paramount interest to us" that the beach remain a town beach and expressed reluctance to use federal money if doing so meant the beach would become entirely public.

Clark procured money for Sandy Beach because it is a coastal barrier beach and necessary to the town for flood control and storm damage prevention. Clark said because the town refurbishes a barrier beach doesn't mean the town has to own the property.

Weisenfluh also questioned, as did the Conservation Commission, the necessity of the sand replacement, the reason he gave for not having moved on the project when funds were received last fall. "Last June the beach was beautiful. The sea brought back most of the sand," he said. More sand that had been pushed across Atlantic Avenue was simply redumped and leveled out on the beach, he said.

"In no way did we need a restoration project last year, so we waited until this winter was through," Weisenfluh concluded with a final query as to whether Sandy Beach needs federal money at all.

## Restoration

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In Hubbard's opinion Clark, as the appointed agent for disaster assistance applications, should have submitted plans for the beach restoration himself or seen to it that the Sandy Beach Association, as trustees of the beach, assumed responsibility for filing a notice of intent when the town received the money.

Hubbard also expressed doubts about the restoration project in general. He questioned whether the beach needed new sand at all, and whether any damage done to the beach was necessarily done during the blizzard.

He explained that replacement of the wrong kind of sand could discolor the water, wash out to sea and be uncomfortable to sit on. Sand from a sand pit could interfere with normal marine activity, Hubbard added.

A point especially queried by the Conservation Commission as a whole was if it was within the legal jurisdiction of the Town to allow the Sandy Beach Association, a private organization, to use the Federal disaster assistance money procured by the town.

Clark reiterated his reasoning for applying for the grant by explaining that Sandy Beach is a barrier beach in the town of Cohasset and that the beach needn't be owned by the town to qualify for Federal funds.



Mom, Nancy Kinchla, fills in for dad at community center as she watches their son John put finishing touches on snake he is painting.

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